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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/779,743

02/18/2004

Tetsuya Kawamura

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05/20/2004

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EXAMINER

QI, ZHI QIANG

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

an

Office Action Summary	Application N	Applicant(s)	
	10/779,743	KAWAMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mike Qi	2871	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f):
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/534,520.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/18/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Double Patenting

2. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-15 of U.S. Patent No.

6,697,139.

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the claims 1-20 of this application have a corresponding limitations with the claims 1-15 of the patent US 6,697,139 except a few wording are different, and substantially they have the doctrine of obviousness-type double limitations.

Claims 1, 9-10 and 18-20 of this application, recitation "a signal line is extended from said display area to peripheral area on said substrate, and said signal line at said peripheral area is covered with a first insulating film, a semiconductor layer, and a second insulating film in this order" or "a first insulating film, a semiconductor layer, and a second insulating film covers said signal line at said peripheral area" or "a signal line formed under said first insulating film, said semiconductor layer, and said second insulating film"; and the claim 1 of the patent US 6,697,139 claimed "the signal lines extending from the liquid crystal area (display area) to a peripheral portion of the liquid-crystal-side surface beyond the sealing material (peripheral area on the substrate), and the signal line is covered with a stacked layered structure at the peripheral portion of the liquid-crystal-side surface, and the stacked layered structure is formed by stacking a first insulating film, a semiconductor layer and a second insulating film on at least one of the plurality of signal lines in this order" that are at least an obviousness-type difference.

Claims 2 and 11 of this application, recitation "said first insulating film, said semiconductor layer, and second insulating film are formed so as to extend into said display area"; and the claim 3 of the patent US 6,697,139 claimed "the stacked layer structure (first insulating film, semiconductor layer, second insulating film) is formed to extend into the liquid crystal area inside the sealing material (display area)" that are at least an obviousness-type difference.

Claim 3 and 12 of this application, recitation "a drive IC mounted on said peripheral area, wherein one end of said signal line which extends at said peripheral area is connected to an output terminal of said drive IC"; and the claim 9 of the patent

US 6,697,139 claimed "a drive IC mounted on the peripheral portion of the liquid-crystal-side surface, wherein one end of the at least one of the plurality of signal lines which extends at the peripheral portion of the liquid-crystal-side surface is connected to an output terminal of the drive IC" that are at least an obviousness-type difference.

Claim 4 and 13 of this application, recitation "said first insulating film, said semiconductor layer, and said second insulating film are formed so as to extend into a portion below said drive IC"; and the claim 9 of the patent US 6,697,139 claimed "the stacked layer structure (first insulating layer, semiconductor layer and second insulating layer) is formed to extend into a portion below the drive IC" that are at least an obviousness-type difference.

Claim 5 and 14 of this application, recitation "said first insulating film, said semiconductor layer, and said second insulating film are formed so as to extend into a position halfway into said output terminal"; and the claim 10 of the patent US 6,697,139 claimed "the stacked layer structure (first insulating layer, semiconductor layer and second insulating layer) is formed to extend into a halfway position below the output terminal" that are at least an obviousness-type difference.

Claim 6 and 15 of this application, recitation "said first insulating film, said semiconductor layer, and said second insulating film is overlapped by said drive IC"; and the claims 6 and 11 claimed "one portion of the stacked layer structure (first insulating layer, semiconductor layer and second insulating layer) is overlapped by the drive IC" that are at least an obviousness-type difference.

Claim 7 and 16 of this application, recitation "said display area comprises a plurality of pixel areas"; and the claim 1 of the patent US 6,697,139 claimed "a plurality of pixel areas formed over a liquid-crystal-side surface of one of the pair of substrates in the liquid crystal area" that means the display area having a plurality of pixel areas, and that are at least an obviousness-type difference.

Claims 8 and 17 of this application, recitation "said plurality of pixel areas is formed by an area surrounding a plurality of signal lines and a plurality of scanning lines"; and the claim 1 of the patent US 6,697,139 claimed "a plurality of signal lines for supplying signal to the plurality of pixel areas respectively" that means a plurality of signal lines connected to the pixel area (generally through thin film transistors and having signal lines to supply image data signal and having scanning lines for switching the thin film transistors) so as to obtain the image display, such that are at least an obviousness-type difference.

Conclusion


4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mike Qi whose telephone number is (571) 272-2299. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T 8:00 am-5:00 pm.

Art Unit: 2871

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Kim can be reached on (571) 272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mike Qi
May 13, 2004


ROBERT H. KIM
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